

Introduction to the Mitchell Field Master Plan

The Master Plan for Mitchell Field is a synthesis derived from the efforts of the participants who contributed to the Community Design Workshop and the previous two forums organized by the Mitchell Field Committee and facilitated by Alan Holt. It should be recognized that the primary functions/activities specified in the plan are not new concepts; they were identified in prior assessments of Town needs. The Mitchell Field Committee wishes to recognize the important prior work of several Town Committees and other sources of public input.

Recreation and open space: Recreation Committee: Open space survey & recreation survey

Housing: Report of Housing Committee.

Marine related business: Comprehensive Plan and Implementation Committee

Waterfront access: Common request in the walk & talks at the field, as well as recreation and open space surveys

The Master Plan is a map for the best placement on the field of the four functions deemed important to the Town. Housing is near the road and clustered to promote a sense of community with the neighbors on Rt 123. Although not all marine-related businesses may need immediate water access, we do not know the needs of any future marine-related business and, therefore, need to leave that option open. The location needs of the other two functions are obvious.

The Mitchell Field Plan is only one step in the process of change at Mitchell Field. Any change from the status quo would require a separate vote beyond the vote on acceptance of this plan. Thus, placement of Washburn & Doughty at the marine-related business - designated area on Mitchell Field requires a vote independent of a vote on this plan. The locations designated for marine-related business are place-holders for any businesses viewed as appropriate by the voters. Any changes or new expenditures at Mitchell Field will require votes separate from the Master Plan vote.

The expenditures that accompany the plan are high-end estimates. Contributions-in-kind and volunteer work could lower some of these costs. These estimates are not directly relevant to the plan itself. Rather, they provide guidance for future efforts of specific change. To illustrate, the projected cost of a boat ramp could guide efforts to modify the structure and/or reduce its cost. The plan does not say build a boat ramp; it says the best place to build one, if it is desired, and its maximum cost, as designed.

The plan balances the often-stated desires for waterfront access, marine-related business, open space, and housing for Harpswell residents.

